Atrocities on vulnerable sections of society

3235. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of atrocities and violation of human rights reported during the last three years;

(b) whether unabated atrocities and violation of human rights of vulnerable sections of society have become the order of the day;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps Government propose to take to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The number of complaints alleging human rights violation registered by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 40,713, 50634 and 71,553 respectively.

(b) and (c) However, there has been some increase in the number of complaints alleging human rights violation from vulnerable sections of society especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. This increase has also been on account of increasing awareness about their human rights and remedies available for their redressal.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps to improve the economic conditions of members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and also prevent atrocities against them. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to support measures undertaken for effective implementation of the Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The assistance has been given for provision of legal aid, setting up of Special Courts, identification of atrocity prone areas and providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims/dependents of atrocities. For ensuring of early prosecution of cases, 78 exclusive Special Courts have been set up in various States. The Government has also requested all State Governments/Union Territories to initiate special measures to protect live and property of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in sensitive areas, ensure speedy disposal of cases, involve elected public representatives and non-Government Organizations at State/District, Block and village level for giving required protection to the affected persons etc.